

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended, claims 3 and 10 canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application, and new claims 15-24 added. Thus, claims 1-2, 4-9, and 11-24 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004, the Examiner objected to the drawings. The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,312,335 B1 to Tosaki, et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,512,020 to Uemura et al., and further in view of U.S. Des. 428,937 to Clemmer, et al. The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tosaki in view of Uemura and Clemmer, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,545,661 B1 to Goschy, et al. It is noted that claims 3 and 10 have been canceled, and claims 1 and 7 have been amended. The Applicant hereby traverses the rejection, as follows.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 183(a), for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner stated that the feature of a second housing must be shown in the drawings or canceled from the claims. Applicants note that the feature of a second housing has been cancelled from the claims, and accordingly request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner stated that

the feature of a second housing was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Applicants note that the feature of the second housing has been canceled from the claims, and accordingly, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claim 1 stands rejected as under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tosaki in view of Uemura and Clemmer. Claim 1, as currently amended, is directed to a fishing game apparatus for displaying on a television monitor a game screen of a fishing game. The fishing game apparatus includes a casting rod capable of being swung in a direction by a game player in casting and a piezoelectric buzzer provided in the casting rod. The piezoelectric buzzer has a piezoelectric plate a main surface of which is perpendicular to the direction, and electrodes sandwiching said piezoelectric plate. A potential difference appears between the electrodes when the casting rod is swung. The fishing game apparatus also includes a game processor provided in the casting rod to determine a casting distance on the game screen by processing the potential difference appearing between the electrodes. In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner takes the position that the combination of cited references teaches every feature of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out the subject matter regarded as the invention. In particular, claim 1 now recites a specific configuration for the piezoelectric buzzer. Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertion that "it is known in the art to use piezoelectric buzzer elements to generate electrical signals corresponding to acceleration," Applicants respectfully submit that the specific

configuration now described in claim 1 is not described in the cited references, nor known in the art. Applicants are confident that it is not known in the art that a piezoelectric buzzer being put into market is used as an acceleration sensor to detect a casting operation in a fishing game together with a circuit configuration shown in Fig. 5, for example. If the Examiner persists in this rejection, it is respectfully requested that prior art is cited to show this feature.

Tosaki teaches a casting rod with a separate external game processor. Uemura teaches a game processor within a game machine main body. Clemmer teaches the ornamental design for a hand-held electronic game. None of the cited art, singularly or in combination, teaches "a piezoelectric buzzer provided in said casting rod, said piezoelectric buzzer having a piezoelectric plate a main surface of which is perpendicular to said direction and electrodes sandwiching said piezoelectric plate, a potential difference appearing between said electrodes when said casting rod is swung," as recited in claim 1, as amended.

Applicants submit that the cited art does not describe or suggest at least the limitation of "a piezoelectric buzzer provided in said casting rod, said piezoelectric buzzer having a piezoelectric plate a main surface of which is perpendicular to said direction and electrodes sandwiching said piezoelectric plate, a potential difference appearing between said electrodes when said casting rod is swung," as now claimed in claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Also, similarly to as discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 7, as amended, is allowable over the cited prior art. As claims 1 and 7 are

allowable, Applicants submit that claims 2, 4-6, and 13-18, which depend from allowable claim 1, and claims 8-9, 11-12, and 19-22, which depend from allowable claim 7, are likewise allowable over the cited prior art.

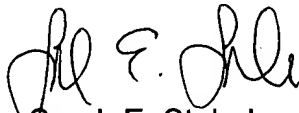
For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. E. Stahnke', is written over the printed name.

Sarah E. Stahnke
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 54,854

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 828-3428
Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810

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